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SERVICE DATE – AUGUST 23, 2012

DO

FR-4915-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[Docket No. AB 33 (Sub-No. 304X)]

Union Pacific Railroad Company—Abandonment Exemption—in Pocahontas County, Iowa.

Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 C.F.R. pt. 1152 subpart F—Exempt Abandonments to abandon a 1.95 mile line of railroad on the Royal Industrial Lead, extending from milepost 475.15 to milepost 477.10 near Laurens, in Pocahontas County, Iowa (the Line). The Line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Code 50554.

UP has certified that: (1) no local traffic has moved over the Line for at least two years; (2) no overhead traffic has moved over the Line for at least two years; (3) no formal complaint filed by a user of rail service on the Line (or by a state or local government entity acting on behalf of such user) regarding cessation of service over the line either is pending with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) or with any U.S. District Court or has been decided in favor of complainant within the two-year period; and (4) the requirements at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(c) (environmental report), 49 C.F.R. § 1105.11 (transmittal letter), 49 C.F.R. § 1105.12 (newspaper publication), and 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50(d)(1) (notice to governmental agencies) have been met.

As a condition to this exemption, any employee adversely affected by the abandonment shall be protected under Oregon Short Line Railroad—Abandonment Portion Goshen Branch Between Firth & Ammon, in Bingham & Bonneville Counties, Idaho, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979). To address whether this condition adequately protects affected employees, a petition for partial revocation under 49 U.S.C. § 10502(d) must be filed.

Provided no formal expression of intent to file an offer of financial assistance (OFA) has been received, this exemption will be effective on September 22, 2012, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues,¹ formal expressions of intent to file an OFA under 49 C.F.R. § 1152.27(c)(2),² and trail use/rail banking requests under 49 C.F.R. § 1152.29 must be filed by September 4, 2012. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 C.F.R. § 1152.28 must be filed by September 12, 2012, with the Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001.

¹ The Board will grant a stay if an informed decision on environmental issues (whether raised by a party or by the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) in its independent investigation) cannot be made before the exemption's effective date. See Exemption of Out-of-Serv. Rail Lines, 5 I.C.C. 2d 377 (1989). Any request for a stay should be filed as soon as possible so that the Board may take appropriate action before the exemption's effective date.

² Each OFA must be accompanied by the filing fee. Effective August 26, 2012, the filing fee for an OFA increases from \$1,500 to \$1,600. See 49 C.F.R. § 1002.2(f)(25), Regulations Governing Fees for Services Performed in Connection with Licensing & Related Services—2012 Update, EP 542 (Sub-No. 19) (STB served July 27, 2012).

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to UP's representative:
Mack H. Shumate, Jr., Senior General Attorney, 101 North Wacker Drive, #1920,
Chicago, IL 60606.

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void ab initio.

UP has filed a combined environmental and historic report that addresses the effects, if any, of the abandonment on the environment and historic resources. OEA will issue an environmental assessment (EA) by August 28, 2012. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA by writing to OEA (Room 1100, Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423-0001) or by calling OEA at (202) 245-0305. Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Comments on environmental and historic preservation matters must be filed within 15 days after the EA becomes available to the public.

Environmental, historic preservation, public use, or trail use/rail banking conditions will be imposed, where appropriate, in a subsequent decision.

Pursuant to the provisions of 49 C.F.R. § 1152.29(e)(2), UP shall file a notice of consummation with the Board to signify that it has exercised the authority granted and fully abandoned the line. If consummation has not been effected by UP's filing of a notice of consummation by August 23, 2013, and there are no legal or regulatory barriers to consummation, the authority to abandon will automatically expire.

Board decisions and notices are available on our website at

“WWW.STB.DOT.GOV.”

Decided: August 20, 2012.

By the Board, Rachel D. Campbell, Director, Office of Proceedings.